



As a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

Protecting and Restoring Maine's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in Maine include sandy and rocky beaches, salt marshes, and estuarine and bay habitat that support an active lobster fishery and provide recreational and economic benefits for millions of people. Coastal hazardous waste sites threaten natural resources and recreational uses. The coastal economy is highly dependent on tourism and commercial fishing, both of which can be adversely affected by oil spills. The state map on the reverse page shows key activities in the past year.

Emergency Response

NOAA has forged a collaborative agreement with Canada's Department of the Environment to share information and technology in the areas of coastal and marine ecosystems, climate, weather, water, and environmental data acquisition and utilization. The partnership aims to improve human health, economic well-being, and environmental protections through strengthening regional capabilities in forecasting, hazard preparedness, and management of ocean and polar regions.

Assessment and Restoration

The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery is located on a 278-acre site spanning four islands in the Piscataqua River connected by 90 acres of fill. Hazardous wastes were stored, disposed of, spilled, or treated at more than 30 acres on the site. Salmon Falls, the Cocheco and



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery

Piscataqua Rivers, the Great Bay estuary, and tidal waters located within 15 miles downstream of the site are used for commercial and recreational fishing, but are vulnerable to pollution from the shipyard. NOAA has worked cooperatively with the U. S. Navy, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, and co-trustees to clean up a landfill and construct a 2.2 acre salt marsh, completed in 2002. NOAA continues to be involved in long-term planning for cleanup of the entire site.

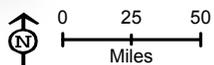
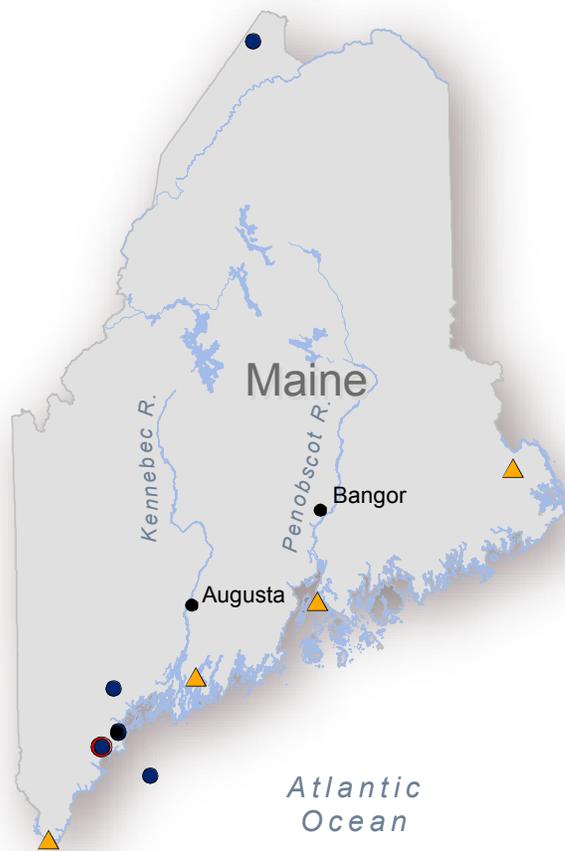
Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information.

The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.



Sampling at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (former), Wiscasset



- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Spill Case
- Restoration Site

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,
 please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at
response.restoration.noaa.gov**

Banner photo courtesy of Captain Albert E. Theberge, NOAA Corps (ret.)

